What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] 1. An image forming device comprising a first roller mechanism for sending out printing paper from a paper feed tray accommodating the printing paper therein, a second roller mechanism for transporting the printing paper to a printing start position where formation of an image on the paper is started, and a power supply mechanism for giving power to the first roller mechanism and the second roller mechanism,

the image forming device being characterized by transporting the printing paper at a first transport speed from an accommodated position inside the feed tray to a first position where the paper is transportable by the second roller mechanism, by driving the first roller mechanism,
discontinuing the driving of the first roller mechanism by the power supply mechanism upon the printing paper reaching the first position,
transporting the printing paper from the first position to a second position where the paper is taken out of the feed tray at a second transport speed lower than the first transport speed by driving the second roller mechanism, and
transporting the printing paper from the second position to the printing start position at a third transport speed higher than the second transport speed by driving the second roller mechanism.

[Claim 2] 2. An image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the second transport speed is not higher than one half of the first transport speed.

[Claim 3] 3. An image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the image is formed on the printing paper while transporting the printing paper at a fourth transport speed lower than the third transport speed by driving the second roller mechanism.

[Claim 4] 4. An image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the second roller mechanism is a platen roller.

[Claim 5] 5. An image forming device according to claim 4 which comprises a thermal head and a thermal transfer ribbon interposed between the thermal head and the printing paper, and wherein the printing paper is wound around the second roller mechanism before the paper is brought from the second position to the printing start position, and the image is formed on the printing paper by pressing a heat generating portion of the thermal head against a leading end portion of the printing paper with the thermal transfer ribbon interposed therebetween at the printing start position, and thereafter causing the heat generating portion to produce heat and driving the second roller mechanism.

[Claim 6] 6. A method of transporting printing paper including the steps of:

transporting the printing paper at a first transport speed from an accommodated position inside a paper feed tray to a first position where the paper is transportable by a second roller mechanism, by driving a first roller mechanism,
discontinuing the driving of the first roller mechanism by a power supply mechanism upon the printing paper reaching the first position,
transporting the printing paper from the first position to a second position where the paper is taken out of the feed tray at a second transport speed lower than the first transport speed by driving the second roller mechanism, and
transporting the printing paper from the second position to a printing start position at a third transport speed higher than the second transport speed by driving the second roller mechanism.

[Claim 7] 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the second transport speed is not higher than one half of the first transport speed.

[Claim 8] 8. A method according to claim 6 wherein an image is formed on the printing paper while transporting the printing paper at a fourth transport speed lower than the third transport speed by driving the second roller mechanism.

[Claim 9] 9. A method according to claim 6 wherein the second roller mechanism is a platen roller.

[Claim 10] 10. A method according to claim 9 which further includes the steps of:

winding the printing paper around the second roller mechanism before the paper is brought from the second position to the printing start position, and forming an image on the printing paper by pressing a heat generating portion of a thermal head against a leading end portion of the printing paper with a thermal transfer ribbon interposed therebetween at the printing start position, and thereafter causing the heat generating portion to produce heat and driving the second roller mechanism.